## The Gift of Family

Written by Marty Shannon, Child and Family Services Wednesday, 19 November 2008 17:00 - Last Updated Monday, 23 March 2009 15:24

When thinking about adoption most of us envision an infant. Nationwide, however, there are over 500,000 children in foster care in need of a permanent family to call their own. Most of these children are older than eight years of age, members of sibling groups, and several have special needs.



Teenagers who exit foster care without the love and support of parent figures are highly represented among youth who are homeless, abusing substances, involved in crime and have untreated health problems. Being part of a stable and permanent family can help change these numbers and, more importantly, the lives of these children.

Each year, November is recognized as National Adoption Awareness Month, focusing specifically on the adoption of children currently in foster care. Over 200 Utah children are currently in foster care and are hoping and waiting to find permanency through adoption.

Adoption has enhanced the lives of many Utah children formerly in foster care. A permanent family is one of the best gifts we can give these children. In this season of thanks and giving, take time to think about the many Utah children in need of and yearning for a permanent family.

If you or someone you know would like to provide one or more of these children with a place to truly call home, visit <a href="https://www.utdcfsadopt.org">www.utdcfsadopt.org</a> or call 801-265-0444.